



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 18 Young At Heart Luncheon
- 28 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

BACKSLIDERS SPEAKERS

January 21

Bob Bell

January 28

The Glorylanders Music Group

WNL DINNER MENUS

January 24: Chicken and rice casserole, salad, steamed broccoli, Butterfinger cake

January 31: Boneless pork chops, roasted potatoes and gravy, salad, red velvet cake

Reservations must be made no later than noon on the Monday prior to the dinner. To make reservations, call the church office at 526-2177, email us at office@cookevillefumc.org, or sign-up online at www.cookevillefumc.org.

Sunday Services

Worship Service:

8:30, 10:55

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:55 a.m. Service Broadcast on
News Talk FM 94.1/AM 1600

Nursery Available

Sunday Worship and Sunday
School: 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Children ages birth to 3 years

Phone: 931-526-2177

Fax: 931-372-9905

Email: office@cookevillefumc.org
www.cookevillefumc.org

FROM OUR PASTOR

Since arriving at FUMC, I've spoken often about our need to improve our work in the area of evangelism. I'm also aware that members in every Methodist congregation have ambiguous feelings about prioritizing evangelism. In fact, a few months ago a long-time member asked me, "Why do churches make such a big deal out of reaching new people? Shouldn't our focus be on taking care of our current members?" That's a fair and important question, and I'd like to respond to it with the following four comments.

First, our current members do matter—a lot. We are the "body of Christ" and every member of the body, including all our current members, are a crucial part of that body.

Second, the Gospel commands us to reach out to people without Christ or without a community of faith. Jesus once said, "I came to seek and to save the lost." He told parables about reaching people, including a story about a shepherd who left ninety-nine secure sheep in order to find one lost sheep. Reaching people for Christ and church is at the center of God's heart. In short, people need Jesus and they need a community of faith. The church is the only institution in the world that exists primarily for those who are not yet members. Jesus calls every church to be more outward focused than they are inward focused.

Third, the future of the church depends on constantly reaching new people. Large membership churches like FUMC lose 10% of their worshipping congregation (average attendance) every year. They move, or become seriously ill, or die, or change churches, or become inactive for a hundred different reasons. For us, that means we lose about 50 people a year. So, if FUMC (or any church) is going to have a long-term viable future, we must prioritize reaching new people.

Finally, as Jesus once said, "the harvest is plentiful." Huge numbers of people across America, including the Cookeville community, are not connected to a faith community. As I've already noted, these people need Christ and a community of faith. Many of them would be open to a congregation of "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors." One of our primary jobs is to reach out to them. And, one of the best ways for that to happen is for our members to constantly invite and welcome their family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to connect with our congregation.

When I was a kid, my dad was an Air Force pilot. As a result, we moved all the time. When we drove off from our old military base to a new one, my mom always led my brother and sister and me in the singing of an old song. The words go like this: "Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver and the other is gold." At FUMC, we are called by God to make new friends while at the same time keeping our old friends. May God help us to do both of these sacred tasks well!

Speaking of reaching new people, it was good to receive Chelsea Boles as a new member. Welcome to our church family.

~Martin

BY OUR PRESENCE

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Total Worship Attendance: 488

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Total Worship Attendance: 441

BY OUR GIFTS

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Budget fund receipts \$29,205.60

Building fund receipts \$860.00

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Budget fund receipts \$29,889.80

Building fund receipts \$1,370.00

NEW MEMBER WELCOME



Please say hello to our newest member, Chelsea Boles (pictured with husband Wesley Boles).

REPURPOSING CHRISTMAS TREES



Do you have an artificial Christmas tree that is ready to be repurposed? FUMC Kids is in search of trees to use as decorations for Vacation Bible School

2018. We would gladly accept all donations of trees, any size and any shape. Trees can be dropped off at the church office or we would happily pick up at your home!



For updated information, please visit us online at www.cookevillefumc.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

To request prayer or to add someone to the prayer list, contact the church office or use the prayer cards in the pews. Names will remain on the list for two weeks, unless otherwise specified.

Marvin Barker	Dan Hearn	Evangeline O'Kain
Vivian Barnes	Faith Holdredge	Susan Pangle
Lida Canella	Mary Ann Huffines	Winnie Peterson
Randy Cavanaugh	Virginia Hunter	Margaret Phipps
Kayla Colson	Alma Jean Johnson	Mary Jo Rogers
Anna Cunningham	Jan Jordan	Joan Tansil
Ed Edenfield	Anna Karch	Gene Evelyn Warren
Brian Foster	Mary Byrd King	Julia Woodford
Jan Fritz	Jeannine Lynn	Hazel Wyatt
Virginia Gibson	Brian Maffett	
Nate Griffis	Pat Maxwell	

Sympathy and Prayer

Ed and Pam Edenfield, on the death of Ed's brother, Chris Edenfield.
Jessie Watts, on the death of her sister, Margaret Swigart.

PRAYER TEAM INVITES YOU TO PRAYER

Knowing someone is praying for us can have powerful consequences for our lives. In most cases, congregational prayer requests are announced during Sunday morning services and published in the bulletin, but sometimes we receive requests for individuals who prefer to keep their requests private, yet they still desire prayer. These individuals and their prayer requests are maintained on a separate prayer list that is not published. Each week a group of dedicated friends offers prayer for those on both the published and the unpublished prayer lists.

If you know of someone who would like to receive prayer, whether it's someone from this congregation, or a family member, friend, or neighbor, let us know and we will include them in our prayers.

The Prayer Team meets on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. in Jenkins Chapel, and we welcome you to join us. For more information or to have your name or someone else's added to the Prayer Team list, contact Noel Poston, noel@cookevillefumc.org.

POVERTY SIMULATION

The poverty simulation on January 10, hosted by Putnam County School's Jackie Reynolds and Beverly Dronebarger, was a "real eye opener" as one participant described it.

Participants and volunteers from FUMC and the community experienced an evening of what daily life is like for our friends and neighbors who live in poverty. Several commented on the impact of the experience and how much they learned about poverty in Putnam County, especially the effects on children, families and the elderly.

The event was capped off with a debriefing that gave everyone a chance to share what it was like to try to find and keep employment, transportation, housing, food, health care, child care, and more. The group also learned about how churches and other community resources can partner in ways that allow us to work with one another, as opposed to creating environments of dependency.

Thank you to everyone who came out to learn about different ways of addressing the issues surrounding poverty. This is a difficult topic but one that affects everyone more than we realize. We hope this simulation moves people to take action and make a difference in our community and around the world.



FUMC KIDS UPDATE



We have a big change for our preschoolers - they will be moving upstairs to CLC 405. We are excited to have them close to the other Sunday school classes!

We are still in need of volunteers for FUMC Kids Sunday School. The sign up sheets go thru the end of school in May. Please look and see when you are able to help. This ministry takes many hands and we depend on parents and volunteers to make the children's ministry an awesome experience for our kids!

Parents, look and see who is teaching and find a place to get plugged in! We welcome all, and I look forward to your participation in this ministry. Many thanks to the parents and volunteers who have been working with the children all year.

The Sunday school experience is a small group environment that can ignite a child's curiosity about the Bible and God's love for each of us. I encourage you all participate and talk with your children about what they learn and expand on that at home. For more information, contact Beth Wheeler at children@cookevillefumc.org

SPRING WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

Women's Bible Study — CLC401

Explore how to become a more joy-filled child of God every day. Each session will have a DVD component and discussion.

An Immersion into Psalms — B213

Led by Pat Jordan

Explore the emotional, spiritual, and intellectual beauty and meaning of the Psalms through readings and dynamic discussion.

Invitation to the New Testament — B214

Led by Bob Bell

This survey of the testament looks at how the early church developed disciples and took ownership of and was shaped by the story of Jesus, and how the church learned how to develop as disciples and create communities of faith.

Our Wesleyan Heritage — B210

Led by Brad Gran

A dynamic overview of the history, theology, and practice of the Methodist movement through the years.

Wesley Class Meeting — B206

Led by Rob Wheeler

A weekly Methodist experience which discusses faith and accountability, along with weekly communion.

All classes begin January 17, 6 - 7 p.m. Register online at www.cookevillefumc.org or call the church office at 526-2177.

CHURCH EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, January 21

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School — Classrooms
- 10:55 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class — B214
- Disciple I Fast Track — B213
- The Grand Sweep — B206
- UMYF — Youth Room

Monday, January 22

- 7:00 a.m. Monday Morning Men's Study — B213
- 3:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry — B206
- 3:30 p.m. Chair Yoga — Gym
- 5:30 p.m. GriefShare — B206

Tuesday, January 23

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Team — Jenkins Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. GriefShare — Dyer Funeral Home
- 2:00 p.m. Cookeville Dulcimer Society — B210
- 2:30 p.m. Food Pantry — Wesley Chapel
- 5:15 p.m. Staff Parish Relations — Conference Room

Wednesday, January 24

- 6:00 a.m. Men's Group — C112
- 9:00 a.m. Hope Academy
- 10:00 a.m. Playtime for Preschoolers — Gym
- 10:30 a.m. Mining Your Memories — B213
- 3:30 p.m. Knitting — B206
- 4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer — B214
- Choir Club
- 4:30 p.m. Finance Committee — Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Life Dinner — Christian Life Center
- 6:00 p.m. An Immersion Into Psalms — B213
- Invitation to the New Testament — B214
- JAM (Jesus and Me) — Gym
- Our Wesleyan Heritage — B210
- Wesley Class Meeting — B206
- Women's Bible Study — Christian Life Center 401
- Youth Choir
- 7:00 p.m. 7 - 8 Special for Youth — Youth Room
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir — Music

Thursday, January 25

- 9:30 a.m. Senior Adult Council Meeting — B213
- 10:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry Training — B206
- 1:45 p.m. Jubilee Ringers — Sanctuary
- 3:30 p.m. Chair Yoga — Gym
- 4:45 p.m. Sanctuary Handbells — Sanctuary
- 5:45 p.m. Evening Ensemble
- 6:30 p.m. Gospel Ensemble

Friday, January 26

- 8:00 a.m. Dipsy Doodle Men's Breakfast — Dipsy Doodle Restaurant



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Third Grade Bible Presentation

Sunday, January 28
 8:30 a.m. service
 in the Sanctuary

If you would like your third grader to receive a Bible and have not been contacted, please email Beth Wheeler at children@cookevillefumc.org.

Open hearts. Open minds. Open Doors. The people of The United Methodist Church.

YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON

February 15 at 11 a.m. in Jeff Wall Hall. "Stories Worth Sharing," with Jennie Ivey. Experience a memory-making morning as Jennie shares some stories she's written! She will also share some basics about writing our own memorable stories for the inspirational market (Guideposts, Chicken Soup for the Soul, etc.). Plus enjoy a Grade A meal! Cost: \$5 per person. Reservations by Tuesday, February 12 to the church office or online at www.cookevillefumc.org/upcoming-events.

THE FOOD PANTRY

Please consider adding these items to your grocery shopping list so we may help provide needed items to our friends and neighbors:

- Carrots, deodorant
- Grocery bags that are clean and flattened.

MISSION MEALS

FUMC has been partnering with the Cookeville Rescue Mission for over three years. We serve the dinner meal the first Tuesday of every month and are ready to add your name to the 2018 calendar! If your class, circle, or other small group would like to prepare and serve meals to our neighbors at the mission, please contact Tamika Parker in the church office to pick a date. Your time and efforts make a difference to those in need!

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



Be a Hero! Come to the American Red Cross Blood Drive, Friday, February 2 in Jeff Wall Hall from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Go to the FUMC website to register. Plan to donate and save a life!

YOUTH MINISTRY ARCHITECTS

This past week, Cookeville FUMC was pleased to welcome Youth Ministry Architects, a consulting firm that specializes in evaluating and advising youth ministries all across the United States. Over the course of three days, two of their consultants spent time leading different groups of youth, volunteers, parents, and staff in conversations about the youth ministry here at Cookeville FUMC. This culminated in a presentation by these consultants that both praised our program and challenged us with several things we can improve going forward.

The truth is that the youth ministry here at Cookeville FUMC is strong, healthy, and poised for greatness. With the help of this consultation, we now have an actionable plan that will work toward building a foundation for fruitful ministry for many years to come. Many thanks to all the youth, parents, and volunteers that helped make this effort a success and continue to make this ministry the blessing it is to our church.

Adam Daniels

Director of Youth Ministries